

"The money that it takes to raise a baby is so much more than I ever could have imagined."

– Megan, pregnant at age 15

"Everything from the minute that you wake up until the minute that you go to bed is going to be completely different. Your friends are going to change. School's going to change. Everything is going to change."

– Amber, mother of two by age 20



"My girlfriend came over, told me she was pregnant. I started thinking about everything: I'm gonna be a father, ain't out of high school yet... gotta get a job."

– Shannon, father at age 16

RESOURCES:

If you have questions about teen pregnancy or the responsibilities of a parent, contact one of the following state agencies to learn more about programs offered and office locations:

Tennessee Department of Human Services

TDHS has offices in all 95 counties, and is responsible for child support services and other state assistance programs. Contact your local county office or log on to:

www.state.tn.us/humanserv/

Tennessee Department of Health

TDH has offices in all 95 counties, and is responsible for family health services, prenatal care and the WICS program. Contact your local county office or log on to:

<http://health.state.tn.us/>



Strained peas and baby formula are not on the school cafeteria menu.

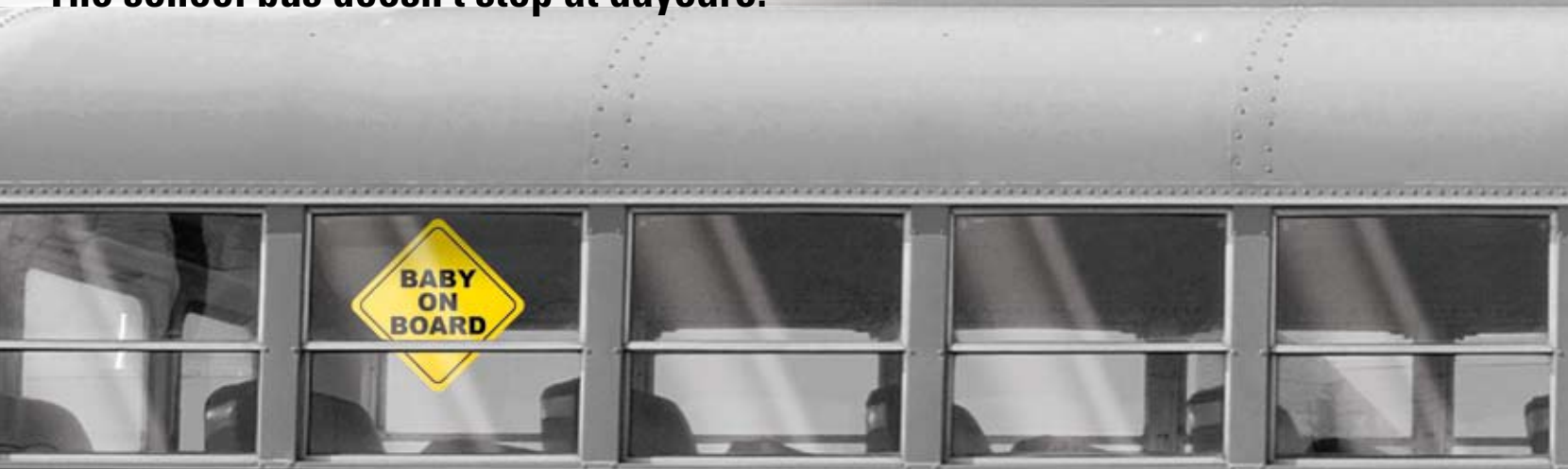
WHAT'S THE RUSH?
Don't Be A Teen Parent

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What's the Rush? is a project of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference. Statistics have been gathered from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unwanted Pregnancy, www.thenationalcampaign.org, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



The school bus doesn't stop at daycare.



WHAT'S THE RUSH?

High school is supposed to be fun. But, every day, backpacks are traded in for **diaper bags**, and after-school jobs that were supposed to pay for new clothes and movie tickets end up paying for **baby food and diapers**.

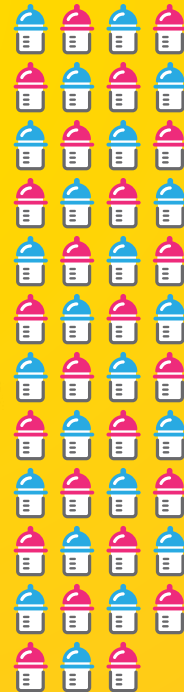
GIRLS

If you get pregnant, the chances of you and your boyfriend raising the baby together are slim. Eight out of 10 teen fathers **do not marry** the mothers of their first child.

BOYS

If your girlfriend becomes pregnant, it is not her sole responsibility to care for the child. Tennessee requires all absent parents to **pay child support, or go to jail**.

In the U.S., more than **47 teen girls** give birth every hour.



DID YOU KNOW?

Less than **half of mothers** who have a child before they are 18 years old graduate from high school, and **less than 2 percent** have a college degree by age 30.

Teen fathers have **less education** and **earn much less money** than teenage boys without children.

The children of teen mothers are more likely to be **born prematurely and at a low birth weight**, which can cause infant death, blindness, deafness, respiratory problems, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, dyslexia and hyperactivity.

If you **don't pay child support**, the state can **suspend your driver's, hunting and fishing licenses**.

Children of teen mothers are 50 percent more likely to have to repeat a grade in school and are **less likely to finish high school**.

The sons of teen mothers are 13 percent more likely to **end up in prison**.

The children of teen mothers are two times more likely to **suffer abuse and neglect** compared to children of older mothers.

Girls, **child support will not be enough**. The cost of raising a child from birth to 17 years old is estimated to be **\$197,790**.



MONEY MATTERS:

You have a baby, you're still in high school, and you have to get a job in order to pay child support and avoid jail – so what is your money flow going to look like? **Well, let's see...**



Congratulations, **you have \$17.00**, which isn't enough money for food or some of the luxuries you might be accustomed to, like cable television, a cell phone or even a new pair of jeans.

*This amount is representative of a monthly child support payment in Tennessee. Amounts will vary on a case-by-case basis.

